

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly for an amphibious vehicle, comprising:

an adapter fitting that is fastenable to a bow of the vehicle;

~~a leg adapted to be~~ that is pivotally mountable to the vehicle, and connected to the fitting; and

~~a linear actuator also adapted to be~~ that is pivotally mountable to the vehicle and to be operatively connected both to the fitting and to the leg, wherein the arrangement of the leg and the actuator once mounted to the vehicle is such that the actuator is adapted to move the leg through an arc of travel from a retracted position to an extended position, and during the travel the actuator moves about its pivotal mount in a manner to ensure that the force exerted on the leg by the actuator in a direction that is tangential to the arc of travel of the leg remains substantially optimal during a portion of the arc of travel the linear actuator having a cylinder and an extendable rod, the cylinder being pivotally connected to the fitting at or adjacent a rod end of the cylinder, the actuator being configured to move the

leg through an arc of travel from a retracted position to an extended position.

2. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein an arrangement of the leg and the actuator is movable about its pivotal mount in a manner ensuring that the force exerted on the leg by the actuator in a direction that is tangential to the arc of travel of the leg remains substantially optimal during the greater portion of adapted to move the leg through the arc of travel from the retracted position to the extended position, and during the travel the actuator moves about its pivotal connection to the fitting in a manner to ensure that the force exerted on the leg by the actuator in a direction that is tangential to the arc of travel of the leg remains substantially optimal during a portion of the arc of travel.

3. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the leg and the linear actuator are both pivotally mounted onto an adapter plate or fixture which is mountable to an amphibious vehicle is movable about its pivotal connection in a manner ensuring that the force exerted on the leg by the actuator in a direction that is tangential to the arc of travel of the leg remains substantially optimal during the greater portion of the arc of travel.

4. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the arc of travel is sufficient to allow [[the]] a greater part of the leg to be raised above [[the]] a water line of the vehicle.

5. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~retractable leg assembly includes a mounting means for at least one ground engagement means~~ actuator is configured to move the leg through an arc of travel from the retracted to the extended positions that is equal to or greater than one hundred and twenty degrees.

6. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim [[5]] 1, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes a ~~steering actuator~~ mounting means ~~which is adapted to control the orientation of the~~ for at least one ground engagement means relative to the retractable leg assembly or wheel.

7. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim [[5]] 6, wherein the ~~ground engagement means is a wheel~~ retractable leg assembly includes a steering actuator means which is adapted to control the orientation of the wheel relative to the retractable leg assembly.

8. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim [[7]] 1, wherein the ~~wheel includes a balloon type tire~~ adapter fitting includes a down stop adapted to limit the travel of the leg at the extended position.

9. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim [[8]] 6, wherein the leg assembly is adapted to position the wheel, when in the retracted position, in such a manner that the wheel can be used as a bumper or fender.

10. (previously presented) An amphibious vehicle incorporating at least one retractable leg assembly substantially as claimed in claim 1.

11. (currently amended) An amphibious vehicle as claimed in claim 10, wherein the path of travel of the leg from the retracted position to the extended position is external from [[the]] a substantially water-tight structure of the amphibious vehicle.

12. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ~~leg and the linear actuator are both pivotally mounted onto an adapter plate or fixture which is mountable to an amphibious vehicle~~ retractable leg assembly

includes a mounting means for at least one ground engagement means or wheel.

13. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim [[2]] 3, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes a mounting means for at least one ground engagement means or wheel.

14. (currently amended) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim [[3]] 12, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes a ~~mounting means for at least one ground engagement means~~ steering actuator means which is adapted to control the orientation of the ground engagement means or wheel relative to the retractable leg assembly.

15. (previously presented) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 13, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes a steering actuator means which is adapted to control the orientation of the ground engagement means relative to the retractable leg assembly.

16. (canceled)

17. (new) A retractable leg assembly for an amphibious vehicle, comprising:

an adapter fitting that is fastenable to a bow of the vehicle;

a leg that is pivotally connected to the fitting; and

a linear actuator that is pivotally connected both to the fitting and to the leg, the linear actuator having a cylinder and an extendable rod, the cylinder being pivotally connected to the fitting at or adjacent a rod end of the cylinder, the actuator being configured to move the leg through an arc of travel from a retracted position to an extended position,

wherein the actuator is configured to move the leg through an arc of travel from the retracted to the extended positions that is equal to or greater than one hundred and twenty degrees.

18. (new) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein an arrangement of the leg and the actuator is adapted to move the leg through the arc of travel from the retracted position to the extended position, and during the travel the actuator moves about its pivotal connection to the fitting in a manner to ensure that the force exerted on the leg by the actuator in a direction that is tangential to the arc of travel of the leg remains substantially optimal during a portion of the arc of travel.

19. (new) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein the is movable about its pivotal connection in a

manner ensuring that the force exerted on the leg by the actuator in a direction that is tangential to the arc of travel of the leg remains substantially optimal during the greater portion of the arc of travel.

20. (new) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein the arc of travel is sufficient to allow a greater part of the leg to be raised above a water line of the vehicle.

21. (new) A retractable leg assembly as claimed in claim 17, wherein the retractable leg assembly includes a mounting means for at least one ground engagement means or wheel.